

Council on Postsecondary Education  
Quality and Accountability Policy Group  
January 30, 2006

## **Transfer Student Policy Development Update**

### **Background**

In 2004 the Quality and Accountability Policy Group of the Council commissioned a statewide study of college student transfer. This study identified four primary barriers to college student transfer including financial access, tension between students' perceptions of the benefit of postsecondary education and their desire for employment and stability, the delivery of academic services at the baccalaureate level, and student planning, preparation, and knowledge related to the transfer process.

### **Recent Developments**

On December 13, 2005, the Statewide Transfer Committee met to reexamine the key findings of the statewide transfer study and explore institutional and policy-relevant strategies for addressing the needs of transfer students. During this discussion, the committee determined that helping transfer students overcome financial barriers to participation in postsecondary education and transfer, and enhancing transfer students' knowledge of the transfer process, were the most pervasive and pressing issues at both institutional and policy levels. The committee discussed the importance of developing financial aid that addresses the funding needs of transfer students, especially scholarships, and the need to enhance transfer-related marketing to motivate transfer and improve transfer students' overall awareness of what is required to transfer as well as the range of services available to assist in the transfer process.

### **On the Horizon**

#### Transfer Student Aid

- Transfer scholarships are included in the Council's 2006-08 budget request and KHEAA is piloting a small scholarship program for adult students that may provide some support for transfer.
- Strategies are needed to encourage public and independent postsecondary institutions to use institutional financial aid to make scholarships available to transfer students.

#### College Access Initiative

- The Council requested funding for a college access initiative in its 2006-08 budget request that will target potential transfer students as well as low-income P-12 and adult students. As a part of this effort, current institutional strategies for marketing transfer-relevant information and services will be reviewed.
- Council staff is working with KHEAA to enhance the information and utility of the Go Higher Kentucky Web portal for transfer students including a process for

managing the information and applications available to transfer students through the site.

- The Council should partner with KCTCS to develop workshops for faculty and academic advisors identifying ways to support student transfer.

#### Course Applicability System (CAS):

- The Council must continue to facilitate institutional participation with CAS, an online transfer planning system available to all students and advisors that provides degree and transfer information. This includes exploring the possibility of working with AcademyOne, an academic Web gateway that provides learning and career management services for individuals, institutions, and employers to enhance CAS' capability for student academic planning as well as advisors and administrators.

#### General Education Transfer Policy:

- The Council staff should develop a process to monitor the implementation of the general education transfer policy to ensure its effectiveness as a tool for promoting and facilitating college student transfer in Kentucky.

#### Statewide 2+2 Agreements:

- The Quality and Accountability Policy Group should explore the value of obtaining the Council's formal endorsement of current Statewide 2+2 Agreements including those statewide agreements in elementary education, special education, and business as well as other current transfer policies.

#### Completer Degrees:

- The Council staff should compile a report on the status of completer degree program development including Web-based information regarding the availability of completer degrees.

#### Key Indicator:

- The Council should continue close monitoring of institutional progress regarding college student transfer through its key indicator system.